THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A report has been received indicating that a divisional bench of the Bombay High Court has directed the Police Cimmissioner to record the statement of a person suspected to have filed a writ petition seeking refund of customs duty based on misrepresentation of facts. Shri Nitin Katnawala was the advocate for the petitioners in the said writ petition.

(c) and (d) Customs Officers sanction refunds, if due, after duly verifying the claim with the relevant documents including the proof of payment of duty, where refunds are ordered to be paid by any court of law, the same procedure is followed. Instructions have been issued to all the Collectors to exercise full caution against false claims for refund of duty being made through court processes on the basis of false averments.

Fraud cases in Punjab and Sind Bank

2151. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of officials in the Punjab and Sind Bank have been suspended for their involvements in fraud/corruption cases;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some General Managers and Deputy General Managers were also suspended on the same grounds in the said Bank

(c) if so, what are the charges against the suspended officials and what further action has been taken against them; and

(d) whether criminal case has been filed against any one of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that 31 officials, including 2 Deputy General Managers, have been placed under suspension from the Bank's service for their involvement in cases of fraud/misappropriation/corruption. The Bank has further reported that whilst departmental action has been initiated against 10 officials, chailans have been filed/prosecution has been launched in the Court by Police/CBI against 13 others.

Effect of import of synthetic fibres on cotton growers

2152. PROF. C. LAKHMANNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether concession given for synthetic yarn and filament imports has affected the cotton growers adversely;

(b) if so, what specific steps Government propose to take to offset this impact on the cotton growers who are already suffering due to fall in cotton crop production; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider their import policy with regard to the polyester yarn and other such synthetic fibres in order to help the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Such revision of the import policy is not considered necessary as the existing import regime is not against the insterest of cotton growers.